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## Judiciary Committee

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### SB 5038

**Title:** An act relating to making technical corrections to gender-based terms.

**Brief Description:** Making technical corrections to gender-based terms.

**Sponsors:** Senators Kohl-Welles, King, Keiser, Franklin and Pridemore; by request of Statute Law Committee.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes gender-specific terms to gender-neutral terms in several titles of the Revised Code of Washington.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 3/18/09

**Staff:** Trudes Tango (786-7384)

**Background:**

Since 1983 state law requires that all statutes be written in gender-neutral terms, unless a specification of gender is intended. In 2007 the Legislature passed Engrossed Senate Bill 5063, an act relating to removing gender references. The legislation changed gender-specific terms to gender-neutral terms in several chapters of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The Legislature directed the Code Reviser, in consultation with the Statute Law Committee, to develop and implement a plan to correct gender-specific references in the entire RCW. The Code Reviser must make annual legislative recommendations to make the RCW completely gender-neutral by June 30, 2015.

**Summary of Bill:**

Gender-specific terms and references are made gender-neutral in several titles of the RCW. For example, references to "man" or "men" are changed to "person" or "persons," "councilman" is changed to "councilmember," and "chairman" is changed to "chair."

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.